IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (currently amended) A biotin-avidin-biotin complex comprising at least two biotinylated substances which are the same or different, and a crosslinked avidin sandwiched therebetween, wherein said crosslinked avidin consists of an avidin monomer or an avidin polymer having intermolecular crosslinkages between two or more avidin monomers, and wherein each of said avidin monomers has intramolecular crosslinkages between avidin subunits.

2. (previously amended) The biotin-avidin-biotin complex according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said biotinylated substances is a biotinylated binding component and at least one of said biotinylated substances is a biotinylated labeling substance.

3. (currently amended) A process for preparing said biotin-avidin-biotin complex according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(1) treating an avidin with a crosslinking agent to prepare a crosslinked avidin, wherein said crosslinked avidin consists of an avidin monomer or an avidin polymer having intermolecular crosslinkages between two or more avidin monomers, and wherein each of said avidin monomers has intramolecular crosslinkages between avidin subunits;

(2) biotinylating the same or different substances to be biotinylated to prepare the same or different biotinylated substances; and

(3) binding said crosslinked avidin and said same or different biotinylated substances to form said biotin-avidin-biotin complex according to claim 1.

4-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A method for analyzing a compound to be analyzed, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a sample suspected of containing said compound to be analyzed;

(2) bringing into contact sequentially and in any order said sample, a biotinylated binding component that specifically binds said compound, a crosslinked avidin, and a biotinylated labeling substance, to form a complex of said compound to be analyzed, said biotinylated binding component, said crosslinked avidin, and said biotinylated labeling substance, wherein said crosslinked avidin consists of an avidin monomer or an avidin polymer having intermolecular crosslinkages between two or more avidin monomers, and wherein each of said avidin monomers has intramolecular crosslinkages between avidin subunits; and

(3) analyzing a signal derived from said labeling substance in said complex.

7. (previously amended) The analyzing method according to claim 6, wherein said binding compound is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antibody fragment, an antigen, a DNA, an RNA, a receptor, a ligand to a receptor, an enzyme, a ligand to an enzyme, an enzyme analogue, a substrate for an enzyme which is an origin of an enzyme analogue, a lectin, and a sugar.

8. (original) The analyzing method according to claim 7, wherein said antibody fragment is Fab'.

9. (previously amended) The analyzing method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said biotinylated labeling substance is selected from the group consisting of a biotinylated enzyme, a biotinylated fluorescent substance, a protein bound to a biotinylated

fluorescent substance, a biotinylated luminescent substance, a protein bound to a biotinylated luminescent substance, and a biotinylated radioactive isotope.

10. (previously amended) The analyzing method according to claim 9, wherein said biotinylated enzyme is a fused protein of an enzyme and a biotinylated biotin acceptor.

11. (previously amended) The analyzing method according to claim 9, wherein said biotinylated enzyme is a biotinylated luciferase.

12. (previously amended) The analyzing method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said crosslinked avidin is selected from the group consisting of a crosslinked egg-white avidin, a crosslinked streptoavidin, and a crosslinked recombinant avidin.

13-23. (canceled).

24. (previously added) The analyzing method according to claim 9, wherein said crosslinked avidin is selected from the group consisting of a crosslinked egg-white avidin, a crosslinked streptoavidin, and a crosslinked recombinant avidin.

25. (previously added) The analyzing method according to claim 10, wherein said crosslinked avidin is selected from the group consisting of a crosslinked egg-white avidin, a crosslinked streptoavidin, and a crosslinked recombinant avidin.

26. (previously added) The analyzing method according to claim 11, wherein said crosslinked avidin is selected from the group consisting of a crosslinked egg-white avidin, a crosslinked streptoavidin, and a crosslinked recombinant avidin.

27. (currently amended) An analyzing reagent comprising a mixture of:

(1) a biotinylated binding component;

(2) a crosslinked avidin, wherein said crosslinked avidin consists of an avidin monomer or an avidin polymer having intermolecular crosslinkages between two or more avidin monomers, and wherein each of said avidin monomers has intramolecular crosslinkages between avidin subunits; and

(3) a biotinylated labeling substance.

28. (previously added) The analyzing reagent of claim 27, wherein said binding component is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antibody fragment, an antigen, a DNA, an RNA, a receptor, a ligand to a receptor, an enzyme, a ligand to an enzyme, an enzyme analogue, a substrate for an enzyme which is an origin of an enzyme analogue, a lectin, and a sugar.

29. (previously added) The analyzing reagent of claim 28, wherein said antibody fragment is an Fab' fragment.

30. (currently amended) A method for analyzing a compound to be analyzed, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a sample suspected of containing said compound to be analyzed;

(2) providing a biotin-avidin-biotin complex comprising a biotinylated binding component and a biotinylated labeling substance, and a crosslinked avidin sandwiched therebetween, wherein said crosslinked avidin consists of an avidin monomer or an avidin polymer having intermolecular crosslinkages between two or more avidin monomers, and wherein each of said avidin monomers has intramolecular crosslinkages between avidin subunits;

(3) bringing said sample into contact with said biotin-avidin-biotin complex to form a complex of said compound to be analyzed and said biotin-avidin-biotin complex; and

(4) analyzing a signal derived from said labeling substance in said complex formed in step (3).